

The Imola Plains



The entrance to the historic center of **Mordano** (n. 8) is accented by two late-1800s battlement towers, while the large 15th century Tower of the Sforza family is currently home to a museum on the history of the local area. Also worth visiting is the Municipal Theater which, already at the end of the 19th century, hosted a local company of dramatic actors. The auditorium maintains its original appearance, with the wooden balcony and wrought iron railings.

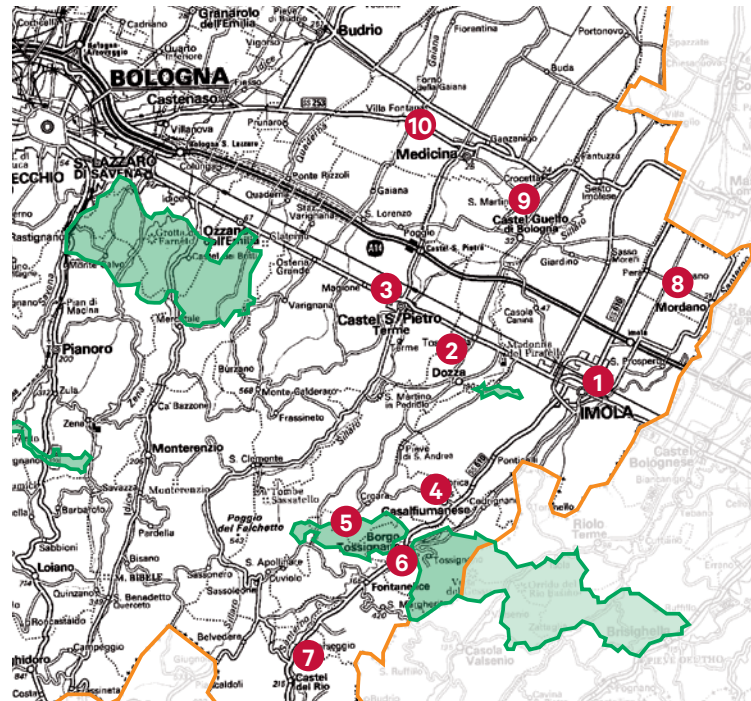
Castel Guelfo (n. 9) is a typical plain-land fortified borough, which has kept its late-medieval structure intact. Donated to the Church by the Canossa dynasty, the Castle was then passed on to the Malvezzi, who in the 15th century, turned it into a small city-state. Its imposing walls, four corner towers and fort frame the streets, churches and buildings of its elegant historic center. Particularly interesting are Palazzo Malvezzi-Hercolani, with its lovely courtyard and twin orders of porticoes, Palazzo del Podestà, with its mix of medieval and Renaissance styles, and the late-1700s Church of the Sacred Heart.

Medicina (n. 10) was the birthplace of Pier da Medicina, who Dante

put in its Inferno among the sowers of discord (28th Canto), as reminds us an engraved plaque of the 16th century Clock Tower. The strange name of the town is linked to a legend which tells how Federico Barbarossa, who re-founded the city in 1155, was cured of his ailments here thanks to the medicinal qualities of a snake which he was served cooked in broth. In fact, the name dates back to ancient times, meaning “place where medical care is practiced”. In the historic center, the Church of San Mamante, with its Bell Tower by Dotti, and the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption by Torreggiani (1753), are well worth a visit. In the proximity of Medicina is the “Croce del Nord” Radio-Telescope of Medicina, the most powerful Italian radio-astronomical complex.

Based on “Guide of the Province of Bologna – Valley Itineraries”

Info:
turismoimolese.cittametropolitana.bo.it
extrabo.it



Radio-Telescope of Medicina
©G. Gardenghi



Rocca Storzesea of Imola - ©A. Angeli

The District of Imola

The demarcation line between the Emilia and the Romagna territory is not marked in any geographic map and yet it deeply shapes Imola. Traveling along the via Emilia from Bologna to the seashore, it is in Imola that the shift in dialects, traditions, food and wine culture becomes apparent and an all-to-be-discovered area comes to surface.



Bologna Welcome Tourist Information Office
Piazza Maggiore 1/e — 40124 Bologna
T +39 051 65 83 190
M booking@bognawelcome.it
bognawelcome.com



1. Imola



Palazzo Sersanti overlooks Piazza Matteotti, an excellent example of Renaissance architecture with its terracotta facade animated by 14 arches with sandstone columns. Girolamo Riario, the Ruler of Imola and husband of Caterina Sforza, commissioned the building in 1480 to establish its residency there. The same square is also overlooked by the medieval **Town Hall**, which today has an 18th century look after the interventions by Alfonso

Torreggiani and Cosimo Morelli. Piazza Duomo hosts the **San Cassiano Cathedral**, originally built in the 12th century and renovated between the 18th and 19th century based on Cosimo Morelli's design. Remarkable are the 15th century bell tower and, inside the cathedral, the 15th century wooden cross.

The **San Domenico church and monastery** date back to the 13th century; the church is home to **The Martyrdom of St Ursula** by Ludovico Carracci, while the monastery was repurposed as a **museum** (Art Collections and G. Scarabelli Museum). The **former monastery of San Francesco** currently hosts an ancient library and the 19th century Ebe Stignani **Municipal Theater**, dedicated to the extraordinary Mezzo-soprano who trod the boards in the first half of the 1900s.

The **Hospital Pharmacy** (1794), largely intact with regards to furnishings and decorations, with its 457 antique majolica vases displayed in carved wooden cabinets and its decorated vaulted ceiling is absolutely worth a visit. A wonderful example of fortified architecture, the **Rocca Sforzesca** (Imola's fortress) was built in the 13th century to be the town's defensive rampart during the struggle for power between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines. During the Renaissance, the history of the Rocca intertwines with Imola's historic characters: Caterina Sforza, Cesare Borgia and Leonardo da Vinci. The renowned **Map of Imola** drawn by the Renaissance master dates back to that period. Currently part of the Windsor's Royal Family collection, it is the first zenith map ever produced and the most ancient example of a city's map. Since 1989 the Rocca has hosted the **Accademia Pianistica Internazionale** (International Piano Academy) "Incontri col Maestro" (Meetings with the master). This is a high specialization school for career musicians founded to help cultivate young music talents. Imola is famous for its **car racing circuit**, with its racetrack inaugurated in 1950 and managed

by the charismatic Enzo Ferrari since 1970. F1 landed in Imola on 1980 to host the San Marino Grand Prix until 2006. In 2014 the "**Checco Costa**" museum, dedicated to the region's great tradition of motoring, opened its doors.

www.visitareimola.it

2. Dozza

The **Rocca of Dozza** (Dozza's Fortress), originally built in the 13th century, was turned into a fortress at the end of the 15th century by the Florentine architect Giorgio Marchesi who, following the wishes of Caterina Sforza, raised the thick walls and the main tower. During the 16th century, thanks to the Campeggi Household, the Rocca took on the appearance of a noble residence which it still maintains today. The dungeons of the Rocca host the **Emilia Romagna**



Regional Winery, where visitors can taste and buy the region's best wines. The **Biennale del Muro Dipinto** (the biennial exhibition of decorated walls) attracts artists from all over the world who are invited to paint on house walls: a true biennial exhibition of modern art. At present, the town streets are decorated with over one hundred paintings; a series of study drawings and detached frescoes (detached from the walls for conservation purposes) are kept inside the Rocca and in the **Museum-Picture Gallery**.

www.fondazioneдозza.it

3. Castel San Pietro Terme

Stretching along the via Emilia, between Imola and Bologna, Castel San Pietro Terme has become a certified Slow City in 2005. Besides its characteristic arcades, the historic center features the 13th century **Clock Tower**, the **Cassero** dating back to 1199 and the current Municipal Theater and the **Santuario del SS. Crocifisso** (the sanctuary of the blessed Holy Cross) with its bell tower famous for its 55-bell carillon, the second largest in Europe by number



of bells. Approximately 10 km from the town center, in the village of Varignana, there is the **San Lorenzo church**, with its evocative pre-Romanesque crypt from the 8th-9th century, it is the most ancient monument in the whole district of Castel San Pietro Terme. The hot springs and thermae, already renowned in the 14th century, are still a popular destination for wellness.

info: uit@cspietro.it

The Santerno Valley



Access to the historic center of **Casalfiumanese** (n. 4 on the map) is through an arch next to a tower, both of which were rebuilt after the serious damage suffered in the Second World War. Two notable 19th century buildings, the Villa Masolini and Villa Manusardi, are surrounded by extended parks.

Tossignano (n. 5) is a small village on the summit of a rocky chalk outcrop whose origins date back to the Romans, while the Borgo was founded in 1198. From its elevated location there is a fantastic view of the valley and of the magnificent rocky spurs of the Regional Park of the Romagna Chalk Vein.

Fontanelice (n. 6) is the birthplace of the architect Giuseppe Mengoni, designer of the Vittorio Emanuele Gallery in Milan and of the Building of the Cassa di Risparmio and Porta Saragozza in Bologna; The Mengoni Archive Museum is located inside the town hall. The Church of Saints Peter and Paul contains an interesting painting from the School of Carracci and a 14th century Byzantine icon called the *Madonna della Consolazione*. The ancient estate of Matilde di Canossa, in 1200 **Castel del Rio** (n. 7) became the property of the Alidosi Household which ruled on the territory until the mid-17th century. An extraordinary example of Renaissance military architecture is Palazzo Alidosi which now hosts the War Museum with a rich collection of material on the Gothic Line and the Chestnut Trail. The Alidosi bridge, built in 1499, was the means of access and defense of the town. Its humpback shape has a single arch that measures 18.5 meters in height and 42 meters in length. A genuine masterpiece of civil engineering, the bridge was proclaimed a national monument in 1817.